Vigilance cases pending in MEA

3331. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "MEA officials complain as probes drag on" appeared in the Indian Express of 13th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether despite an order by Government, Vigilance case have been pending in his Ministry for more than five to eight years; and

(c) if so, the reasons with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There are 33 vigilance cases pending for more than five years. While some of these cases are *subjudice* and action on them can be concluded only upon receipt of final judgement from the Courts, certain other cases are under investigation by agencies such as the central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Cases are also delayed due to the difficulties encountered in obtaining evidence from nationals, authorities and institutions based in foreign countries.

Reopening of Stillwell Road

3332. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA:
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the matter of reopening of "Stillwell Road" with the Government's of Myanmar and China for commercial purposes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The subject of opening additional points for border trade has been discussed with the Government of Myanmar. While the Myanmar Government agree in principle to opening of additional border points, they would like to first ensure the smooth functioning of the existing border trade at Moreh-Tamu before taking any decision in this respect .